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The Value of Honors

Larry Berman, larryberman@gsu.edu

Our Honors College, established in 2011, is a place where the most intellectually curious and intensely motivated undergraduates explore a challenging interdisciplinary curriculum, engage with outstanding faculty, conduct research with top scientists and scholars, and graduate ready to embark on a lifetime of achievement. The value of an Honors education is more demonstrable today than ever before. By combining the best aspects of a more traditional liberal education with the applied practice of skills and experiences, the Honors College gives students the ability to put their knowledge to work in the world.

The Honors College offers the qualities of a liberal arts atmosphere within a larger research university; an Honors education, however, must encompass more than just classroom and lab experiences. It is the product of integrative experiences that connect the college and the university to the Atlanta community and the rest of the world. Our Honors College is a laboratory that embraces new initiatives, experiments with curriculum, and encourages the kinds of outside-the-classroom experiences that drive personal growth.

The Honors College strives to push intellectual boundaries in

seminars that examine worldviews, banish complacency, and challenge students to move beyond chemistry or art classes to embrace what might be uncomfortable or difficult. The College offers a regular seminar on the legacy of Alonzo F. Herndon, in which Honors students both learned about risks and took a few themselves. Notably, not one student enrolled in the course was a history major; they came from neuroscience, film, art and design, marketing, psychology. These students left their comfort zones to crawl through property records, dust off archival documents, and learn new ways of developing knowledge. Initially wary of how their research would come together and how it would be used in this experimental seminar, students learned to become comfortable with ambiguity and allowed an organic process to lead the course. The professors who taught the course, one historian and one community psychologist, modeled risk taking — not knowing how well students would embrace the fluidity of the course, and tolerating uncertainty of the course's outcome.

Honors faculty certainly don't shirk the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century education. A dedicated group of them have piloted the Digital Literacy Initiative in the



Larry Berman, Founding Dean, Honors College

Honors College, and are incorporating new tools, techniques and projects into the core Honors curriculum. They're examining their pre-conceived notions of what a History or English course must look like, and adding visualization, mapping and coding to their curricular plans.

While an honors education often begins in the classroom, where high-achieving students feel comfortable, the LEAD with Honors Certificate program, which cultivates leadership skills, certainly doesn't end there. Beginning with a seminar in leadership during which students interact with leaders across many Atlanta sectors, and continuing with practical opportunities and courses to further leadership skills, the program culminates in a year-long internship followed by a thesis related to a leadership issue encountered during the internship. This combination of

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

Harry Dangel discusses a proposed endowment to support Georgia State's Honors College.

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ANDREW YOUNG

Emeritus Professor Harvey Newman discusses his latest book, *Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta*, co-written with Young and his daughter, Andrea.

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SARA ROSEN

Sara Rosen is the new dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.



CHAIR'S COLUMN

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Associate Professor Emeritus
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Last spring's needs assessment, indicated many emeriti are in favor of some type of initiative that offers a service or support to the University. Although there had been some interest in endowing a faculty position, the high cost of funding a faculty position and deciding in which college the position were problematic. Funding the \$25,000 for a student scholarship has many of the same difficulties.

Here's what we'd like to do. The GSU Honors College evolved from the Honors Program previously directed by Emeriti Grant Luckhardt and Bob Sattelmeyer and current Vice Provost, Tim Renick. The Honors College was established in 2011 and Professor Larry Berman became its first dean in 2012. It includes students from across the University—our brightest and best representing 38 different majors. Classes are taught by the 68 faculty (28 departments) affiliated with the Honors College. The college added 245 freshmen this fall (average SAT jumped to 1360). Examples of students' research are in the Honors College undergraduate research journal, *Discovery* <http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/discovery/>. Because the Honors College includes students from across the University and, impressively, mirrors the demographic characters for the

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The Making of Modern Atlanta

By Harvey Newman, Professor Emeritus, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

I have been asked to speak as part of the Emeriti Association's new partnership with the University Library to host the Author Series on Wednesday, November 16, at 11 a.m. in the Library's CURVE Suite (2nd floor, Library South). I am excited about telling some of the stories about our book, *Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta*.

As Andrew Young tells it, the making of modern Atlanta began around 1946, when Mayor Bill Hartsfield began to forge a coalition with African-American leaders into a partnership that came to be known as "the Atlanta Way." This coalition began showing its power at the ballot box by supporting more moderate white leaders such as Hartsfield and Ivan Allen. Beginning in 1972, the same black-white coalition elected Andrew Young to the U.S. Congress, and the following year made Maynard Jackson the first black mayor of the city.

For the past six years I have worked with Andrew Young and his daughter Andrea to document Andrew Young's life of public service to Atlanta. During that time, I had the pleasure of listening to him tell stories about decisions that shaped Atlanta as we know it. One of my favorites is how the Lakewood Amphitheatre was built. For decades the Lakewood area was home to an annual Southeastern Fair. As attendance declined, the fair closed leaving the city with ownership of the grounds and empty buildings. Many different plans emerged to reuse the area, but none had the financial and political support to bring new life to the old fairgrounds. One proposal was from the Music Corporation of America and Pace Entertainment Group to build an amphitheater somewhere in the city. Mayor Young persuaded them to locate the facility on the fairgrounds in an area that badly needed jobs after the closure of the fair and the nearby General Motors assembly plant. Young saw an opportunity to create small businesses for the residents in the community.

The developers had major concerns about crime in the area, but Young believed that involving local residents in businesses related to the venue would make the area safer for patrons attending concerts. He wanted to be sure that young entrepreneurs in that area had an

opportunity to benefit and that the city was not plopping a development in their community but that they were part of it. This is what Young calls "public purpose capitalism" and, at its best, the process creates business owners, rather than simply employees. As Young tells the story, the first thing we did ... we formed a security company of people who were in the neighborhood who had some military training, had been in ROTC, have been Boy Scouts—anybody who had any kind of discipline training, we pulled them together to create a security company and they became a joint venture, they owned 51%, but they became a joint venture with a national company which provided them with uniforms and training. Young asked local developer Herman Russell to head construction of the amphitheater, but with one stipulation...hire everybody he could in the neighborhood that he could hire and take them with him on his next job. Russell replied, "if I train them, I don't want someone else to take them."

Young then turned to the issue of women in the community, "Well most of the women were on welfare, they were single mothers. We said we will give you the concessions. You can own the cotton candy, the hot dogs, you know, the fried chicken, whatever, ice cream. ...It's your store but we joint-ventured them with [a company] that supplied them with what



they needed, but they own 51% of every store." The older men were organized to manage the parking lots and younger men sold t-shirts. The involvement of the community in the private development has resulted in a safe and popular entertainment venue seating 18,000 that opened in 1989 and continues in operation without major incidents.

This is the kind of creative problem solving that Young calls the Atlanta Way. Hearing these stories and writing about them made the time spent with him and his daughter Andrea a learning experience that I will always treasure.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

2016 – 2017 Upcoming Events

EMERITI WEBSITE UPDATED

Check out the updated Emeriti website! There are new photos, member updates, calendar updates and much more. We hope you have the opportunity to take a look at the website, as this will continue to be a way we communicate with you. You may access the website at <http://emeriti.gsu.edu>.

ATTENTION EMERITI: Please update or add your email address so we can contact you electronically regarding emeriti activities. If we do not have your correct email address, you may miss communications sent by email. Send updates to update@gsu.edu.

To update Human Resources information, you may send an email to payroll@gsu.edu or benefits@gsu.edu or call **404-413-3302**.

■ OCTOBER

Benefits Presentation

Wednesday, Oct. 26 • 10 a.m.
College of Law, Knowles Conference Center (*lower level*)
85 Park Place NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Gail Imoukhuede and staff members from the university's benefits office will discuss this year's updates to retiree benefits. The presentation will be preceded by light refreshments; lunch will be served at noon. *Complimentary parking will be available in T Deck.*

■ NOVEMBER

New Emeriti Welcome by Provost Risa Palm/State of the University Address

Wednesday, Nov. 2 • 12:30 p.m.
College of Law, 3rd Floor, Faculty Commons
85 Park Place NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Emeriti are invited to this luncheon featuring Provost Risa Palm's annual university update. She will also welcome newly inducted emeriti members. All are invited to attend the State of the University Address by President Mark Becker immediately following the program in the Student Center.

Authors Series

Wednesday, Nov. 16 • 11 a.m.
Library South, 2nd Floor, CURVE Suite
100 Decatur St. SE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Dr. Harvey Newman will discuss his book, *Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta*, which is co-authored with Andrew Young and Andrea Young. Come learn the story of community, business and political relationships and decisions that shaped Atlanta's growth from the Reconstruction era to the Olympic Games, and beyond. This event marks the inauguration of the Emeriti Association's new partnership with the University Library to recognize recent book publications by GSU faculty. Library faculty and staff play major roles in discovery, scholarship and publication at the university, while Emeriti have diverse, multidisciplinary experience in academia. Together we plan to shine a spotlight on some of the creative activities at the University. As a continuing service project of the association, emeriti are invited to contribute to author presentations by volunteering to introduce an author colleague or by preparing highlights for an in-depth Q&A session.

■ DECEMBER

Emeriti Holiday Party

Sunday, Dec. 4 • 3 p.m.
Canterbury Court
3750 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30319

Our annual gathering will be held again this year at Canterbury Court. Join us for holiday cheer and catching up before the season becomes too hectic.

■ FEBRUARY 2017

Valentine's Day Luncheon

Friday, Feb. 10 • 11:30 a.m.
Rialto Center for the Arts
80 Forsyth St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

With Valentine's Day comes Georgia State's traditional gift of the Valentine's Day luncheon for members. Each year the university treats us to a reception where we meet friends, former colleagues, current deans and other administrators. This time of fellowship and catching up is followed by an elegant lunch on beautifully decorated tables and includes an update on developments at the university.

Economic Forecast Presentation

Wednesday, Feb. 22 • 11 a.m.
Student Center Auditorium

Emeriti are invited to attend Dr. Rajeev Dhawan's presentation at the Economic Forecasting Centers quarterly conference. Emeriti are invited to coffee before the presentation and lunch afterward. The event, with coffee and lunch, is free of charge.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

In Memoriam

Dr. Verle Mickish, Professor Emeritus of Art and Design, died in July 2016. He received B.A. and M.A. degrees in Art Education from Colorado State College of Education. During the Korean Conflict, he joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to the General's Headquarters Squadron as a USMC artist. In 1971, after receiving his Doctorate in Art Education from Arizona State University, he joined the art faculty at Georgia State. Verle was an art educator, active artist, published illustrator and cartoonist, workshop presenter, and book author. The National Art Education Association (NAEA) named him the Distinguished Georgia Educator and NAEA Art Educator of the Year in 1983. He was honored by President Jimmy Carter in a White House Ceremony for Cultural Arts work in Brazil. Verle was famous for his cartoons, and after he retired from GSU in 1996, he continued to create professionally published cartoons and art.

Dr. William Sessions, Professor Emeritus of English, was a scholar of English Renaissance Literature, a poet and playwright. In 1948 he received a B.A. from the University of North Carolina, where he founded the Carolina Review of Literature. After receiving his M.A. in English Literature from Columbia University, he taught at West Georgia College, where he met and cultivated a friendship with Flannery O'Connor. He received his Ph.D. at Columbia after studying philosophy in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship. He joined the English faculty at Georgia State in 1966, where he taught English Literature for more than 30 years. He won the Southern Theater Conference's Best New Playwright Award for his play entitled "A Shattering of Glass" about the violence of racism. Bill spent the last years of his life writing a large, definitive biographical work on Flannery O'Connor that will be published posthumously.

Emeritus Professor Larry Walker Receives 2016 Nexus Award from Atlanta Contemporary Art Center

The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center recently announced Georgia State Emeritus Professor Larry Walker as its 2016 Nexus Award Recipient. The Nexus Award is a public acknowledgment of individuals, groups, or organizations that have made significant contributions to the contemporary arts landscape and celebrates local leaders who are instrumental in making Atlanta an exceptionally vibrant arts community.

Georgia State's Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design Gallery is showing Selected Works by Larry Walker through Nov. 11. The gallery is located at 10 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Former Director of Art and Design at Georgia State, Walker began his long career as an educator at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California where he was a professor and later chair of the Department of Art. In 1983 he accepted a position in Atlanta as a professor and director of the art program at Georgia State. He retired from the university in 2000.

Walker's career as an artist spans over 50 years—a highlight to date is the solo exhibition at Sikkema Jenkins & Co (New York) curated by his daughter and gallery artist, Kara Walker. "We aspire to introduce our increasing and diversified audiences to individuals like Mr. Walker who have and will continue to shape the landscape of contemporary art here in Atlanta," says Executive Director Veronica Kessenich. "Larry Walker's impact on the lives and careers of artists is significant. It is a privilege to honor him as the 2016 Nexus Award recipient."

Walker has an extensive exhibition history. He has been the subject of over 40 solo exhibitions and has participated in over 200 group exhibitions since 1971. His work is in the collection of the High Museum in Atlanta, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia and The Studio Museum in Harlem, among others. Mr. Walker was presented the Nexus Award at a reception during the ART PARTY at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center in August.

The Welch School presentation is a solo exhibition of paintings and works on paper selected by the artist and gallery director Cynthia Farnell. The pieces in Selected Works represent Walker's ongoing investment in drawing, painting, collage and the human form, with shadow-like forms appearing as enigmatic and recurring motifs. Walker says of his recent work: "Some of the imagery I have been using for a number of years has evolved and has somewhat moved into the realm of 'hidden images.' The images I refer to as Wall Spirits or Spirit Voices extend from a kind of metamorphosis or melding of faces, heads, birds, animals, fish, unknown creatures and/or mergers between human forms and plants or animals. In recent paintings the use of such images appear to be hidden in the spatial context of the composition ... embedded in a kind of Bosch-like cacophony of shapes and textured areas."



Photo courtesy of Atlanta Contemporary Art Center



NEW DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Georgia State University, Public Relations and Marketing Communications

Sara Rosen, senior vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Kansas, has been named dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Georgia State University, effective August 17. Rosen, who has been at the University of Kansas for 25 years, has been senior vice provost for academic affairs since 2011 and interim provost and executive vice chancellor since January 2016.

In a variety of positions at Kansas, she has provided key leadership in a broad range of areas such as academic program quality, scholarship and research across the university, campus-wide diversity and inclusion efforts, and allocation of university resources in a difficult fiscal landscape.

Rosen also had oversight of Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies, Student Affairs, International Programs, Online and Distance Learning, Institutional Compliance. She has overseen implementation of the university's 2012-2017 strategic plan. Prior to these positions, she was chairperson of the Linguistics Department for seven years and dean of graduate studies for four years.

"President Becker and I look forward to working with Dr. Rosen and welcome her to our leadership team," said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Risa Palm. "We have great confidence



Sara Rosen, the former senior vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Kansas, began her new role as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in August.

in her potential to lead through the coming years."

Rosen earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and cognitive science from Brandeis University.

"President Becker and I look forward to working with Dr. Rosen and welcome her to our leadership team."

— *Risa Palm*
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Provost

Georgia State Among Top 5 Most Innovative Universities

Georgia State University has moved from fifth to fourth among the most innovative schools in the nation in the 2017 Best Colleges edition of U.S. News & World Report magazine. Georgia State also ranked 14th among national universities cited for "an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching." It was 14th last year.

"We are delighted that Georgia State continues to be recognized as a national leader in innovation and for our extraordinary commitment to students," said Mark P. Becker, president of the university. "Our model for proactively supporting students in new and innovative ways is leveling the playing field so students from all backgrounds succeed. It is hugely gratifying to see these recognitions bestowed upon our faculty and staff for their creativity and hard work in shaping the future of higher education."

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University, the Board decided they should be our focus. Learn more at <http://honors.gsnu.edu/>. We learned we could have an immediate impact by providing "just-in-time" funding for students to take advantage of opportunities for professional advancement. For example, Sarah Cook, shared the example of a student who was offered an internship in London but was unable to pursue it due to the cost of airfare. An emeriti just-in-time grant could have covered the airfare. Other uses might be to enable honors students to attend state or national meetings to present their research (including the many conferences that rotate through Atlanta). The Board discussed how our own connections to a professional organization/conference got many of us started in our professional careers. I invite you to join in our efforts to create the next generation of successful professionals.

CHAIR'S COLUMN
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coursework, practical skill development, work experience, soft skills and research moves students far beyond the four walls of a classroom and will be well worth the journey. Not just beyond the classroom — an Honors education is an experience beyond university boundaries. National and international conferences for presentation of research, internships in town and abroad, summer research programs and service opportunities — all are valuable additions to an undergraduate education, and offer students the opportunity to experience the world from a different perspective. Honors students who take advantage of these opportunities learn to solve problems, think critically, and embrace a global mindset — all qualities that prepare them for the years after college.

Honors College
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